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scopic structure of drugs. Another feature of pharmacognostical interest is an appendix of about ten pages, giving a brief synopsis of the officinal plant drugs of the German Pharmacopœia.

The subjects usually treated in books of this class are here presented in a clear, concise text, which is very effectively supplemented by the excellent woodcuts.

It is hardly necessary to point out the good qualities of a book that has proved its usefulness by long service. It is enough to say that it is distinctly improved in the new edition and will remain one of the most serviceable of the shorter botanical text-books.

R. H. T.

“Lessons in Botany.”¹—The increased attention to botany in high-school courses during the last few years has resulted in a rich crop of elementary texts designed to meet the new conditions. In the preparation of many of these texts it has been assumed that a full year’s time could be given to this subject. Very many schools, however, are not yet able to devote more than a half year to the study of plants, and abridged editions are consequently beginning to appear.

Atkinson’s *Lessons*, a volume of three hundred and sixty-five pages, is such a work. The opening chapter on germination, winter buds and shoots, is succeeded by the study of protoplasm and its properties, as observed in root hairs, Spirogyra, and Mucor. About eighty-six pages are given to a study of the physiology of flowering plants. Part II, dealing with the morphology and life history of representative types, begins with Spirogyra and Vaucheria, following the usual sequence up through the ascending series of forms. When the study of the angiosperms is taken up a chapter on seeds and seedlings is introduced. Here the types discussed differ from those in the opening chapter.

Part II is concluded by Studies on Plant Families. Twenty or more lessons are devoted to the morphology and ecology of about as many plants. Part III, including about sixty pages, is given up to ecology. So far as the ecological adaptations of the individual plant under ordinary conditions is concerned, this phase of botany seems admirably adapted for use in the high school; but when the study of plant communities introduces zones of tension and other landscape features the value of the subject in a half year’s high-school course is doubtful. Descriptions of swamps near Ithaca can hardly take

¹ Atkinson, George Francis. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1900. 365 pp., 277 figs.

the place of work afield, for which the students whom this book is designed to aid are likely to lack time and opportunity. With this exception the *Lessons* seem to the writer well adapted to the ends they are intended to meet.

The author has an interesting style of presentation. The abundant illustrations, of which many are original, are very good.

R. H. T.

Notes.—Part I of *The Queensland Flora*, a handbook by F. Manson Bailey, Colonial Botanist, recently issued, contains the orders Ranunculaceæ to Anacardiaceæ and is illustrated by twelve plates representing some of the rarer species.

Volume II of the *Meddelanden* of the Botanical Institute of the Stockholm University contains thirteen articles covering morphological and physiological studies on flowering plants and morphological and taxonomic studies on certain cryptogams, chiefly fresh-water algæ.

Mr. Holm's *Studies in the Cyperaceæ*, XII, deals with *Carex filifolia* Nuttall, from which are segregated *C. elynoides* (*C. filifolia* var. *miser*) and *C. oreocharis* (*C. filifolia* var. *valida*).

Messrs. J. U. and C. G. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, whose practical interest in botany has been shown already in many ways, have begun the publication of a "reproduction series" of Bulletins, the first of which, fresh from the press, is a facsimile of Barton's *Collections for an Essay towards a Materia Medica of the United States*, accompanied by a biography and portrait of the author.

PALEOBOTANY.

Cretaceous Plants.¹—Professor Lester F. Ward, with the collaboration of W. P. Jenney, W. M. Fontaine, and F. H. Knowlton, presents an elaborate discussion of the cretaceous flora of the Black Hills in relation to the geological age of the various strata in which the plants occur. Eighty-six species are enumerated, of which nineteen belong to the Pteridophyta, forty-eight are gymnosperms, and the

¹ Ward, Lester F. The Cretaceous Formation of the Black Hills as indicated by the Fossil Plants, *U. S. Geol. Surv.*, 1899, pp. 525-712, Pls. LVII-CLXXII.